

SENATE RESOLUTION 57

By Harris

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Ethel Lee Bowen Brown on the celebration of her eightieth birthday.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this legislative body pay tribute to those citizens who are celebrating special occasions in their estimable lives; and

WHEREAS, Ethel Lee Bowen Brown will celebrate her eightieth birthday on April 24, 2015, a milestone that will be commemorated as yet another precious souvenir of life's rich pageant; and

WHEREAS, the daughter of Frank Bowen Sr. and Mary Lee Macklin, Ethel Brown was the second born in a multiple birth; her twin sister Frankie Lee was stillborn. Mrs. Brown has six younger siblings, and her parents were sharecroppers; while they worked in the field, she cared for her siblings; and

WHEREAS, a product of Shelby County Schools, she attended Oak Grove Central Elementary School and Barret's Chapel School; and

WHEREAS, affectionately called "Ma," Mrs. Brown is a highly respected member of the Memphis community, and she is a caregiver to many neighborhood children; and

WHEREAS, for many years, Ethel Brown volunteered at her children's schools, monitoring sick children, assisting the teachers, and chaperoning numerous field trips; and

WHEREAS, dedicated to her Lord, Ethel Lee Brown has been a member of Longview Heights Seventh-Day Adventist Church for more than forty-five years; she has served in the Dorcas Community Service Department, the Personal Ministries Department, and the Stewardship Department. In addition, she was a choir member, the treasurer, a Sabbath School teacher, the Sabbath School Department secretary, and a supporter of the Longview Heights Instrumental Ensemble; and

WHEREAS, on April 25, 1954, she was joined in marriage with Roy R. Brown Sr., now deceased, and the couple's blessed union of fifty years produced seven children, Samuel, Roy Jr., Regina, Shannon, Edra, Edith, and Heather. Mrs. Brown is also the proud grandmother of twenty-five and the great-grandmother of fifteen; and

WHEREAS, having a variety of interests, Ethel Lee Brown is passionate about politics, proper documentation, gardening, trivia, puzzles, and animals. She also loves to travel, and especially enjoys going on cruises; and

WHEREAS, willing to share her wisdom, Mrs. Brown believes in enlightening and educating others about voting and current events; and

WHEREAS, a woman of many talents, Mrs. Brown sang back-up with her younger twin sisters in her husband's singing group, "Randy and the Randyettes," and she helped him run the now-demolished Handy Theatre; and

WHEREAS, as Ethel Brown approaches her ninth decade, she is still an active and productive member of society, participating in various civic and community events; and

WHEREAS, we wish to grasp this golden opportunity to specially recognize one of Tennessee's most outstanding citizens on this very special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor and congratulate Ethel Lee Bowen Brown on the celebration of her eightieth birthday and extend to her our best wishes for much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.